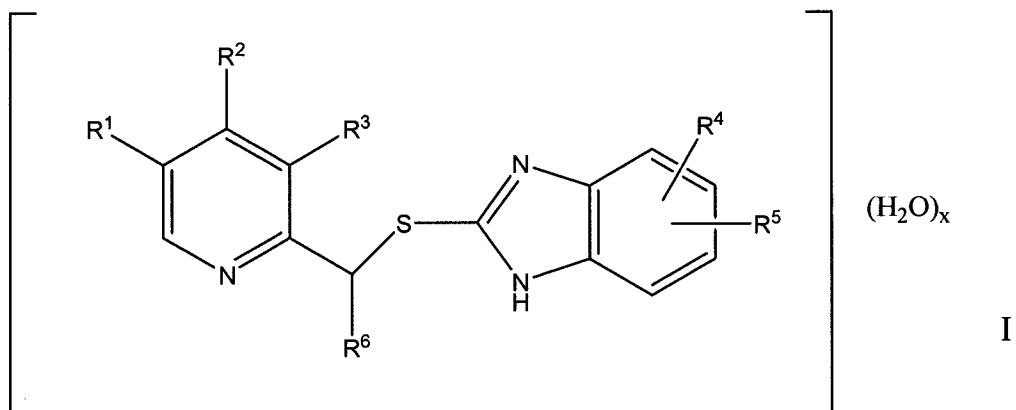


## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A crystal of optionally substituted 2-(2-pyridinyl) methylthio-1H-benzimidazole hydrate of the following structural formula I



in which

R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup>, identical or different, denote hydrogen, a C1-C8 alkyl, C3-C8 cycloalkyl, C2-C8 fluoroalkyl or C1-C8 alkoxy moiety,

R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup>, identical or different, denote hydrogen, a C1-C8 alkyl, C3-C8 cycloalkyl, CH<sub>2</sub>-C3-C8 cycloalkyl, C1-C8 alkoxycarbonyl, C1-C8 alkoxy, C1-C8 fluoroalkoxy, CF<sub>3</sub>-, C2-C8 fluoroalkyl or C(O)O-C1-C8 alkyl moiety and

R<sup>6</sup> denotes hydrogen or a C1-C2 alkyl moiety and

x means 0.5-2.

2. (Previously Presented) A crystal according to claim 1, in which

$R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$ , identical or different, denote hydrogen, a C1-C3 alkyl or C1-C3 alkoxy moiety,

$R^4$  and  $R^5$ , identical or different, denote hydrogen, a C1-C3 alkoxy, C1-C3 fluoroalkoxy moiety and

$R^6$  denotes hydrogen and x means 0.5-2.

3. (Previously Presented) A crystal according to claim 1, in which  $R^1$  denotes a methyl group,  $R^2$  a methoxy group,  $R^3$  a methyl group,  $R^4$  hydrogen,  $R^5$  a methoxy group in position 5 and  $R^6$  hydrogen and x means 0.5-2.
4. (Currently Amended) A crystal according to claim ~~1~~, in 1, in which  $R^1$  denotes hydrogen,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  in each case denote a methoxy group,  $R^4$  denotes hydrogen,  $R^5$  a difluoromethoxy group in position 5 and  $R^6$  hydrogen and x means 0.5-2.
- 5.-13. (Canceled)
14. (Previously Presented) A crystal according to claim 3 in which x is 2.
15. (Previously Presented) A crystal according to claim 3 in which x is 1.14.
16. (Previously Presented) A crystal according to claim 4 in which x is 2.